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INSECT ATTACKING TREES IN SANDY AND HOLLADAY BENCHES

An insect called the *Ips* bark beetle is making its presence known in the bench areas of Sandy and Holladay. The beetle attacks spruce and pine trees eventually killing them.

“In a normal year the beetle will take flight in mid-April to attack a new host tree,” explained Colleen Keyes, forest health coordinator for the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands. “While a healthy tree can usually fight off the invader a tree under stress is very susceptible to invasion.

“Luckily there are some things a homeowner can do prevent damage to landscaping provided the tree is not heavily infested,” she added. “Spraying with a registered insecticide that contains the chemical Carbaryl will usually protect the tree from attack or reduce damage.”

Carbaryl is found in several commercial insecticides, which can be found in home and garden stores, and is effective for about one year. However, the insecticides are most effective when sprayed with a high-pressure sprayer with a carwash type nozzle and it is important that the entire tree be well drenched.

Proper watering of trees will also help maintain health and enable the tree itself to ward off the invader.

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